

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652, N/A

TAGS: EC

SUBJECT: OAS MEETING -- U.S. PRESS TREATMENT

FOR BRIAN BELL

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF SATURDAY AND SUNDAY PRESS ACCOUNTS OF QUITO MEETING:

2. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 -- NOVITSKI ARTICLE INSIDE PAGE OF POST REVIEWED BACKGROUND OF QUITO MEETING EMPHASIZING THAT CONFERENCE DELEGATION FOR THE MOMENT SEES A TWO VOTE SHORT-FALL WITH U.S. AND BRAZIL ADOPTING A HANDS OFF POLICY AND NOT TELEGRAPHING THEIR INTENTIONS. NOVITSKI OBSERVES ISSUE IS SURVIVAL OF INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM GIVEN THAT DEFACTO BREAKUP OF CUBAN EMBARGO IS NOT INDOUBT.

3. SATURDAY, BALTIMORE SUN COVERAGE CONSISTED OF EDITORIAL, "THE OAS AND THE PRODIGAL SON" STATING "OAS WILL EMERGE AS MORE VALUABLE FORUM" IF QUITO MEETING ENDS SANCTIONS, THE U.S. NEED ONLY "STEP OUT OF THE WAY" TO BRING THIS ABOUT, AND READMISSION OF THE "PRODIGAL SON" TO OAS GOOD GRACES NEED NOT IMPLY APPROVAL ANY MORE THAN PARAGUAY'S GOOD STANDING IN THE ORGANIZATION CONSTITUTES APPROVAL.

4. SATURDAY, MIAMI HERALD CARRIED FRONT PAGE STORY BY MONTALBANO WITH FOLLOWING LEAD:OAS OPENED HISTORIC DEBATE
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ON CUBA FRIDAY WITH CEREMONY ON SURFACE, SEARCH FOR

CONSENSUS BEHIND THE SCENES, AND TEN FRUSTRATED CUBAN EXILE "TOURISTS" UNHAPPILY HELD IN COMUNICADO. MONTALBANO SAYS ONE U.S. DELEGATE PUT IT, "THE FUR STARTS FLYING MONDAY," AND REPORTS THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL ARRIVED PLEDGING "A CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT" AND EXPRESSING HENRY KISSINGER'S "SPECIAL REGRET" AT NOT BEING ABLE TO ATTEND. LATER MONTALBANO SAYS U.S. IS HOPING TO BE ABLE TO ABSTAIN IN VOTE ON TUESDAY. AFTER GIVING COUNTDOWN - 12 VOTES ON RECORD AND A "PROBABLE 13TH FAVORING LIFTING THE SANCTIONS - MONTALBANO SAYS "IN LARGE MEASURE FINAL VOTE WILL DEPEND ON WORDING OF RESOLUTION. FACIO SAID FRIDAY HE HAD 4 OR 5 DIFFERENT VERSIONS IN HAND IN SEARCH OF A CONSENSUS. HIS GOAL IS A FINAL DRAFT SO SKILLFULLY WORDED THAT 16 OR 17 NATIONS COULD VOTE FOR IT."

5. SATURDAY CHICAGO TRIBUNE INSIDE PAGE CARRIED UPI STORY FROM QUITO HEADLINED "LEFTISTS MAR OAS TALKS; BURN U.S. FLAG" REPORTING DEMONSTRATIONS AND SECURITY MEASURES IN QUITO.

6. IN SEVERAL CBS RADIO BROADCASTS FROM QUITO SATURDAY, FRANK MANITZAS REPEATED FOLLOWING POINTS: U.S. MAINTAINING LOW KEY STANCE PENDING EXPECTED VOTE MONDAY ON COMPROMISE PROPOSAL NOW BEING DEVELOPED, BUT THE FIRST TWO LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS TO MEET WITH U.S. NEGOTIATORS WERE FROM COSTA RICA AND COLOMBIA, "TWO KEY COUNTRIES PUSHING FOR REINCORPORATION OF CUBA IN INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, AND ALMOST EVERYONE HERE EXPECTS THE U.S. TO VOTE FOR A COMPROMISE PROPOSAL TO REMOVE THE SANCTIONS."

7. LATE SATURDAY TICKERS AND RADIO NEWS REPORTED BOMB EXPLOSION ON SECOND FLOOR OF PAN AMERICAN UNION BUILDING APPARENTLY IN OR NEAR TELEPHONE BOOTH CLOSE TO SYG'S OFFICE. DAMAGE BUT NO PERSONAL INJURY INVOLVED.

8. UPI ENGLISH TICKER (WALTE FROM QUITO) 8:00PM SATURDAY LEADS: LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS PUBLICLY SPLIT INTO TWO OPPOSING CAMPS WHILE DELEGATES PRIVATELY SEARCHED FOR COMPROMISE. SUBSEQUENT PARAGRAPH REPORTS "GROWING UNCLASSIFIED

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INDICATIONS" CHIEF U.S. DELEGATE WILL NOT ADDRESS CONFERENCE BUT WAIT FOR FINAL ROLL-CALL TO REVEAL U.S. POSITION.

9. ELEVEN PM SATURDAY UPI ENGLISH TICKER DATED QUITO QUOTES "AMERICAN OFFICIALS" DENYING REPORTS CIRCULATING AMONG DELEGATES THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER MIGHT RUSH TO QUITO: "THERE IS NOTHING TO THAT; WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING

ABOUT THAT."

10. SPECIAL, BELL FROM FIMBRES: PROVIDENCE JOURNAL
CARRYING LOCAL NEWS ON FRONT PAGE, OAS INSIDE.

11. FOLLOWING FROM SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10 PAPERS: NOVITSKI
INSIDE PAGE OF POST AGAIN REFERS TO TWO VOTE SHORTFALL AND
TO U.S. POSTURE OF "UNUSUAL SILENCE" IN CONTRAST TO MORE
ASSERTIVE ROLE IN THE PAST. INFORMED SOURCES WERE CITED
AS REPORTING U.S. IS REMAINING ALOOF FROM VOTE BARGAINING.

12. BOMB EXPLOSION SATURDAY EVENING AT PAN AMERICAN UNION
WAS REPORTED IN THE FRONT PAGE OF STAR AND INSIDE PAGE OF
POST. DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT 30,000 TO 40,000 DOLS. OAS
SPOKESMAN SAID NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT POSSIBLE SPECULA-
TION THAT EXPLOSION LINKED TO QUITO MEETING.

13. NICHOLSON BI-LINED ARTICLE INSIDE PAGE OF THE STAR
DESCRIBES DIPLOMATIC SOURCES AS TERMING U.S. THE BUDDHA OF
OAS MEETING BECAUSE OF ITS SILENCE ON SANCTIONS. SILENCE
ANALYZED BY THESE SAME SOURCES AS REFLECTING NEUTRAL U.S.
VIEW. ACCORDINGLY, U.S. IS NOT TRYING TO INFLUENCE OUT-
COME.

14. GIST OF KANDELL ARTICLE APPEARING INSIDE PAGE
NYTIMES IS THAT FAILURE TO LIFT SANCTIONS WOULD DELAY
U.S.-CUBAN RAPPROCHEMENT SINCE U.S. WOULD NOT WANT TO ACT
BY ITSELF IN THE FACE OF ANTI-CUBAN OBJECTION. ON THE
OTHER HAND, WHILE VOTE TO LIFT SANCTIONS WOULD EASE WAY TO
U.S.-CUBAN RECONCILIATION IT WOULD NOT NECESSARILY MEAN A
MOVE TOWARD RE-ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. ARTICLE
ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT U.S. HAS NOT ENGAGED IN ANY "ARM
TWISTING."

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15. SUNDAY MIAMI HERALD DEVOTES LEAD EDITORIAL, 2 FRONT
PAGE STORIES, PLUS 2 ADDITIONAL INSIDE PIECES TO QUITO AND
RELATED EVENTS. EDITORIAL, TEN PARAGRAPHS LONG, ENTITLED
"SI, NO OR MAYBE ON CUBA, U.S. WILL SUFFER AT THE OAS,"
BEGINS BY STATING NO MINDS OR VOTES ARE LIKELY TO BE
CHANGED IN QUITO, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE U.S. IS NOT USING
ITS "INFLUENCE" THIS TIME, AND THE "LIKELY U.S. ABSTENTION
IN EFFECT WOULD BE A VOTE AGAINST" LIFTING THE SANCTIONS.
IF THE MOVE TO END THE SANCTIONS FAILS...THE OAS ITSELF
COULD FOUNDER BECAUSE A MINORITY GROUP OF COUNTRIES WOULD
HOLD THE ORGANIZATION TO A POSITION THE MAJORITY DIS-
FAVORS." CALLING THE U.S. STANCE "UNDERSTANDABLE BUT
RISKY," THE PIECE GOES ON TO MENTION OTHER REALITIES SUCH
AS THE POLL SHOWING 63 PERCENT OF U.S. CITIZENS IN FAVOR

OF RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WHILE THE CUBAN EXILE COMMUNITY OPPOSES, WITHOUT OFFERING SOLUTION OR CALLING FOR ANY ACTION.

SUNDAY HERALD FRONT PAGES A WIRE STORY ON THE EXPLOSION AT THE PAN AMERICAN BUILDING AND A MONTALBANO STORY ON QUITO OPENING SESSION SPEECHES. MONTALBANO LEADS: PERU SAID YES, URUGUAY SAID NO, AND THE U.S. SAID NOTHING. HE REPORTS THE HAITIAN VOTE "UP FOR GRABS AS A POSSIBLE 13TH" VOTE AND THE GUATEMALANS "UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE BUT SO FAR UNCOMMITTED AS A 14TH," AS THE U.S., "CLINGING TO THE POSITION ADOPTED LAST MONTH IN WASHINGTON, WATCHED WITH CROSSED ARMS," AND STATES THAT ABSTENTION BY THE U.S. IS LIKELY. FURTHER ON MONTALBANO SAYS THE SEARCH FOR A CONSENSUS RESOLUTION CENTERS AROUND FACIO, WHO MAY HAVE TO SETTLE "IN SEMANTIC CONCESSION TO THE WAVERING," FOR A RESOLUTION THAT WOULD DECLARE OAS MEMBER STATES FREE TO MAINTAIN OR LIFT SANCTIONS.

16. SUNDAY HERALD INSIDE STORIES CONCERN NEW POLICE RESTRICTIONS ON CUBAN EXILE GROUP IN QUITO AND A RUNDOWN OF THE PROBABLE VOTING STANCE OF COUNTRIES MEETING IN QUITO.

17. SUNDAY BALTIMORE SUN FRONT PAGES SHORT AP STORY CAPTIONED "DC OFFICE OF OAS BOMBED" WHICH NOTES "THE BLAST UNCLASSIFIED

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COINCIDES" WITH THE OAS QUITO MEETING TO DEBATE LIFTING OF SANCTIONS AND REFERS TO RECENT BOMBINGS IN QUITO PROTESTING THE MEETING. O'MARA STORY ON OAS MEETING, ALSO PAGE ONE OF SUNDAY BALTIMORE SUN, IS ENTITLED "U.S. PROFILE IS LOW AT MEETING ON CUBA." O'MARA SAYS U.S. DEL APPEARS LOCKED IN TWO NOT NECESSARILY CONTRADICTORY POLICIES: NISON'S LOW PROFILE FOR U.S. IN LATIN AMERICA AND KISSINGER'S NEW DIALOGUE. STATING U.S. DELEGATES IN QUITO ARE "HEARD INFREQUENTLY AND THEN SAY LITTLE SUBSTANTIAL" ABOUT THE RESOLUTION IN PREPARATION, O'MARA QUOTES ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS: "WE'RE REALLY NOT INVOLVED HERE," ; "WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE AN INTER-AMERICAN MEETING IN WHICH THE U.S. DID NOT TRY TO DETERMINE THE OUTCOME." O'MARA SUGGESTS EVERYONE IN QUITO BELIEVES THE U.S. IS "NOT TWISTING ARMS" ETC. "TO GET ITS WAY". HE CONTINUES: "U.S. DIPLOMATS SAY THE REASON SPRINGS FROM WASHINGTON'S NEW-FOUND RESPECT FOR LATIN AMERICA. INDEPENDENT OBSERVERS SUGGEST THAT IF THE U.S. HAS NOT STRONGLY OPPOSED THE LIFTING OF SANCTIONS ON CUBA, THAT IS REALLY WHAT WASHINGTON WANTS. ONE INFORMED SOURCE SAID: 'THE U.S. HAS NO HOSTILITY TO THIS MEASURE; NOR WILL U.S. POLICY TOWARD CUBA BE CHANGED BY WHAT HAPPENS

HERE.' IT IS KNOWN MR. KISSINGER WILL DECIDE -- PROBABLY
AFTER DISCUSSING IT WITH PRESIDENT FORD - HOW THE U.S.
WILL VOTE...ABSTENTION IS CONSIDERED THE MOST LIKELY U.S.
COURSE." REGARDING OTHER QUITO DEVELOPMENTS, O'MARA SAYS
VENEZUELA IS WORKING ACTIVELY BEHIND THE SCENES, ESPECIAL-

LY ON GUATEMALA, AND THAT THE "INSTRUMENT OF PRESSURE IS
OIL'; THAT THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE CONFERENCE IS "CONCILIA-
TORY," THE STATEMENTS OF NATIONAL POSITIONS "REASONABLE,"
AND A COMPROMISE PROPOSAL (LEAVING EACH GOVERNMENT FREE
TO REOPEN RELATIONS) IS ALREADY IN THE WORKS. KISSINGER

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